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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Government authorities in England, Denmark and Switzerland have confirmed small outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in those countries, according to recent information. In England, the outbreak confirmed was at Trimley, Suffolk. The Danish outbreak occurred in the southern suburb of Copenhagen and was limited to one location, while the disease in Switzerland was limited to two farms in one district and one animal in another district. Losses in all instances were inconsequential and steps were taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD 1949 SHELLED ALMOND PRODUCTION ESTIMATE REVISED DOWNWARD 1/

The 1949 preliminary estimate of shelled almond production in the 6 leading foreign commercial producing countries is revised downward to 56,000 short tons compared with 54,000 tons in 1948 and 77,500 tons in 1947. This is 17 percent below the 10-year (1938-47) average of 67,600 short tons and 21 percent below the 5-year (1943-47) average of 70,500 tons.

The present estimate shows a decrease from that of October 31, 1949 for Italy and Spain, the largest producers in the Mediterranean Basin. The estimates for other countries in the Basin remain unchanged. The United States estimate has been revised downward to 39,000 short tons, unshelled basis. Growing conditions in Italy and especially Spain during 1949 were decidedly spotty and account for the fluctuations in the estimates.

At mid-season stocks remaining unsold in the hands of producers and exporters in the Mediterranean Basin are estimated at 24,600 short tons, shelled basis. This is about 43 percent of the estimated 1949 production or about 37 percent of the 1949 crop plus carry-over from 1948. About 14,000 tons remain in Italy, of which 11,000 tons are thought to be in Bari and the balance in Sicily.

Spain, the largest producer in 1949 by contrast is estimated to have only 4,600 tons, and Iran, the third largest producer, 3,800 tons. While it is much too early to consider the probable carry-over into the 1950 harvest, it now seems probable that only Iran and Italy will have a significant carry-over. At present France and French Morocco have no stocks of consequence from the 1949 harvest. Portugal and Spain expect to be sold out before August.

The 1949-50 marketing season in the Mediterranean Basin has been far from satisfactory, according to most members of the trade in these countries. At times almonds moved in fair volume while at other times exports fell to almost grocery store or retail levels. The United Kingdom was considerably less active in the almond markets than last season and tonnages purchased to date have been disappointing. The United States for the first time in the postwar years became a rather minor market because of record domestic crops of almonds, filberts and walnuts. On the brighter side was the re-entry of Germany into the market with a fair volume of purchases. The small harvests in France and French Morocco brought France into the other markets in better volume. The official export statistics for the 6 countries will not be available for some time but based on trade estimates it appears about 21,000 tons had been exported from the 6 leading producing countries in the Mediterranean Basin. This estimate represents about 38 percent of the 1949 production or 31 percent of the estimated available supply at the start of the present season.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, 25, D.C.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1949 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	France	French Morocco	Iran	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Foreign total	United States unshelled
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average								
1938-47---	700	2,200	7,100	30,800	2,600	24,200	67,600	21,400
1943-47---	800	1,700	6,500	34,800	2,200	24,500	70,500	27,100
Annual								
1944------	1,000	600	5,300	22,700	1,700	20,900	52,200	24,000
1945------	500	3,300	6,600	50,600	2,300	26,400	89,700	27,200
1946------	700	2,400	7,700	33,000	3,700	24,200	71,700	37,800
1947------	1,000	1,200	6,000	46,200	1,100	22,000	77,500	29,200
1948 1/---	1,100	3,300	7,000	18,700	2,900	21,000	54,000	34,000
1949 1/---	300	1,900	7,700	2/ 20,000	4,200	2/ 21,900	2/56,000	2/39,000

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Revised.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign government, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports for consumption of shelled and unshelled almonds

(Crop year, September-August)

Year	French Morocco	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
				SHELLED		
Average:						
1939/40-1948/49	16	1,257	517	2,578	175	4,543
1944/45-1948/49	21	2,422	479	3,642	51	6,615
Annual:						
1943-44	0	0	1,271	6,930	53	8,254
1944-45	15	0	1,218	8,061	31	9,325
1945-46	28	1,508	688	7,140	73	9,437
1946-47	34	2,054	187	950	76	3,301
1947-48	27	4,179	98	1,805	26	6,135
1948-49	0	4,370	206	255	47	4,878
1949-50 1/	14	220	9	0	2/	243
				UNSHELLED		
Average:						
1939/40-1948/49	0	2	3	100	1	106
1944/45-1948/49	0	3	2	116	3	124
Annual:						
1943-44	0	0	14	425	0	439
1944-45	0	0	11	170	0	181
1945-46	0	0	0	263	5	268
1946-47	0	6	0	145	6	157
1947-48	0	9	0	0	2/	9
1948-49	0	2	0	0	1	3
1949-50 1/	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ 3 months, September through November.
2/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

The outlook in the Mediterranean Basin for the balance of the 1949-50 season depends to a very large extent on what the British will do between now and the next harvest as well as on continued purchases by Germany. Some sections of the Trade feel that the British will shortly enter the market for a substantial tonnage but at their own price, similar to tactics of the previous season. India is also expected to enter the market if the British start buying. Additional sales to western European countries and Germany are anticipated in the months ahead. It appears doubtful, however, if the anticipated purchases will be in sufficient volume to absorb the stocks now remaining in the Mediterranean Basin.

The winter to date in the Mediterranean area has not been severe and trees are progressing normally according to late advices. The crucial period for the industry is from the start of the blossoming period which starts soon until the danger of frost is past. Italy statistically should be due for a large crop in view of two unsatisfactory crops in succession. The same situation to a lesser extent prevails in Spain.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

U.K. - SOUTHERN RHODESIA TOBACCO TALKS IN LONDON

A meeting between representatives of the Southern Rhodesia Tobacco Marketing Board and the Tobacco Advisory Committee to the British Government began in London on February 8, the American Embassy in London reports.

No official announcement regarding the scope of the talks has been released, but press reports in the United Kingdom indicate that the delegation from Southern Rhodesia will raise the following points:

1. Liberalization of the present scheme whereby Southern Rhodesian growers reserve two-thirds of their tobacco crop for export to the United Kingdom and other amounts for specific destinations, leaving only 10 percent not specifically allocated.

2. Increase prices for leaf to counteract higher production costs resulting from the devaluation of Sterling.

3. Seek assurance that if there is an increase in production beyond the present goal of 120 million pounds by 1953 that United Kingdom manufacturers will be prepared to take two-thirds of the excess.

U.K. TOBACCO IMPORTS UP

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco into the United Kingdom in 1949 were 7 percent above the 1948 level, official import statistics released by the British Government reveal.

Leaf imports totaled 301.1 million pounds in 1949, compared with 280.8 million in 1948 and 295.6 million in 1947. Flue-cured leaf accounted for 82 percent of total imports in 1949. This compares with 88 percent in 1948 and 87 percent in 1947.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco, 1949 with comparisons

Country of Origin	1947	1948	1949
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Southern Rhodesia	22,969	43,851	46,471
Nyasaland	11,908	14,073	17,769
India	22,942	22,815	38,332
Canada	22,224	12,686	12,980
Other British Countries	2,056	3,878	3,481
United States	201,235	172,383	154,079
Turkey	1/	10,155	19,993
Other Foreign Countries	12,286	934	8,027
Total	295,620	280,775	301,132

1/ Included in "Other Foreign Countries."

Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom, December 1949.

The United States continued to be the predominant source of leaf, but its share of the total declined from 68 percent in 1947 to 61 percent in 1948 and to only 51 percent in 1949. Imports of leaf from the United States totaled 154.1 million pounds in 1949, compared with 172.4 million in 1948 and 201.2 million in 1947.

Southern Rhodesia, the second most important source of leaf, supplied 46.5 million pounds in 1949 which was 6 percent above 1948 and over 100 percent above the 1947 level. Imports from Turkey, India, and Nyasaland also were substantially higher in 1949.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	2-9	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	75.35	43.68
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	71.60	41.50
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	82.85	48.02
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	75.85	43.97
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine	2-8	82.28 lbs.	"	75.00	27.50
289F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	77.75	28.51
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	79.50	29.15
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	2-9	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1/ 4000.00	37.55
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	2-8	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	2-9	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	185.00	30.44
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	available)
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	182.00	29.94
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	226.00	25.79
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	31.52

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal - ceiling prices.

INDIA FACES A COTTON SHORTAGE 1/

The supply of Indian cotton deteriorated rapidly in the 1948-49 season due to the small crop that could meet only 52 percent of India's raw cotton requirements and to the difficulty in securing adequate imports. To ease the situation, the Government of India granted permission to import 817,000 bales (of 480 pounds net). About 300,000 bales may be from dollar areas.

It is generally agreed the shortage was due principally to prolonging the wartime diversion of land from cotton to food crops, the partition of the country and the dollar shortage, and India's difficulty in securing cotton outside the dollar area. Devaluation of the Indian rupee, September 19, 1949, has also increased some of these difficulties.

Large stocks of Indian cotton were accumulated during World War II when most of India's export markets were cut off or disrupted. These stocks and a shortage of food led the Indian Government to restrict the acreage of all nonfood crops after 1942. Under the Grow-More-Food Campaign, cotton acreage declined from 20 million acres in 1941-42 to 10.6 million acres in 1948-49. Since that time the food situation has not greatly improved and India has been importing more and more of its food requirements. Much of this food originated in dollar areas and its purchase required dollars urgently needed to procure capital goods for the expansion of industry and for other development of the country. Early in 1949 the government of India announced that beginning in 1951 there would be no further imports of food grains. If india maintains this policy there is little possibility that cotton acreage will be substantially increased until food production rises significantly.

The division of India into the Indian Republic and Pakistan also greatly altered the cotton picture. Practically all the cotton mills were in the area now in the Indian Republic. The area that is now Pakistan produced 1.0 to 1.5 million bales of cotton which had been available to the Indian mills without the expenditure of foreign exchange. With the partition of the country the situation changed. Pakistan needed foreign exchange to buy commodities and products which could not be furnished by India. Since sterling area cotton has been in strong demand in Europe and the Far East, Pakistan has had little difficulty in selling its cotton to countries that could supply these requirements. Consequently, Indian mills have had difficulty in obtaining their allotted quota of Pakistan cotton and in finding other sources for cotton of this type within the sterling area. However, they have found that

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1/ Based on reports of Henry W. Spielman, American Consul, Bombay.

Jarila and Broach cotton, part of which formerly had been exported, could be substituted for some of the shorter Pakistan cottons. Moreover, in 1948-49 India was able to increase imports from Egypt, Sudan, and British East Africa.

Since the food shortage will prevent any large increase in cotton acreage, India plans to increase production through increasing yields and the use of present fallow land for the production of cotton. To achieve this goal of self-sufficiency, in all but the longer staple cotton, would require a one-third increase in cotton production.

India harvested the smallest cotton crop in 1948-49 since the drought of 1879. The 1948-49 crop of 1,960,000 bales fell 22 percent below the previous year although there had been a slight increase in acreage. The small crop was attributed to the drought in the Surti, Broach, and Dholleras areas and excess rains during the harvest period in the Oomras tracts.

Preliminary estimates indicate a crop of 2,325,000 bales in the 1949-50 season. However, there does not appear to be any significant increase in cotton acreage and if the crop does reach this figure it will be one of the highest yields on record, being exceeded only in 1947-48.

During the 1948-49 season India consumed 3,750,000 bales of cotton, or 170,000 bales more than the previous year and 1,800,000 bales more than the Indian crop. However, as the year ended, mill consumption was declining and the textile situation was becoming difficult. India reimposed full controls over the cotton textile industry in July 1948 after first abandoning controls in January 1948. Early in the 1948-49 season the Indian Government issued a list of the types and qualities of cloth which the mills could produce. This list apparently was not well-balanced and as early as December 1948 mills were experiencing a glut of certain low qualities of cloth. This surplus gradually increased during the spring and summer of 1949 until some mills had accumulated large stocks of such low-quality cloth that were not moving. Consequently many mills began reducing operations and some temporarily closed. However, the government of India has now modified its control regulations and taken steps to move these stocks. Although it is still too early to say whether the steps are adequate to liquidate the stocks, it is widely believed that the mills will greatly benefit by the concessions. At a meeting of the textile industry and the government of India on October 10, 1949, it was agreed that cloth prices should be reduced 10 percent. This also should have a favorable effect.

Large cotton textile stocks were only one of the difficulties facing the Indian cotton textile industry. During the 1948-49 season (after partition of the country) India ceased to be an important exporter of raw cotton and became a major importer. During the past season India not only imported 839,000 bales of cotton but was obligated to withdraw 1,217,000 bales from stocks to meet their cotton requirements.

Stocks have now been reduced to 4-months' supply or about a minimum level. Therefore, consumption requirements for the 1949-50 season must be met from local production and imports.

Forecasts based on the present situation and trends place mill consumption for the 1949-50 season at about 3,450,000 bales or about 300,000 bales under the past season but still 1 million bales above the estimated 1949-50 crop. Assuming an export of 160,000 bales of surplus short-staple cotton not needed in India, this would bring import requirements near 1.2 million bales for the 1949-50 season.

Early this year India and Pakistan signed a trade agreement under which 370,000 bales of Pakistan cotton would be delivered to India in the 1949-50 season. India failed to secure the full allotment of cotton from Pakistan in the past season. It is doubtful that India will buy the 1949-50 quota this season. The India-Pakistan agreement is based on an exchange of Indian cotton textiles for Pakistan raw cotton and if the demand for Indian textiles in Pakistan declines, there would be less basis for trade. Pakistan can trade cotton for textiles with other countries.

Devaluation of the Indian rupee also has complicated the problem as Pakistan did not devalue. The immediate effect of devaluation was to increase the cost of Pakistan cotton in India by 44 percent. Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and British East Africa all devalued their currency the same as the Indian rupee.

During the past season Indian mills consumed 303,000 bales of Egyptian cotton and it is doubtful if they could increase their use of this long-staple cotton above 400,000 bales in the 1949-50 season. It is also doubtful that India can secure more than 40,000 bales of cotton from the Sudan crop, because a major portion of it is usually bought by the British Government under a single purchase agreement. It is reported that India has bought 220,000 bales (equal to 175,000 United States bales) of East African cotton.

Thus India is faced with the problem of obtaining cotton from other sources. Market reports from Bombay indicate that over 150,000 bales of cotton have been purchased in the United States and that further purchases may be made.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

U.S. RICE EXPORTS SET NEW RECORD

United States rice exports during 1949 totaled 1,135 million pounds compared with 869 million in the year before and the previous record of 936 million pounds in 1947. Deliveries were nearly 5 times the average (1936-40) of shipments of 235 million pounds.

UNITED STATES: Rice exports to specified countries, average 1936-40, annual 1945-49 1/

Continent and country	Average 1936-40	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949 2/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Europe	39	52	10	1	37	90
Cuba	168	335	263	738	428	592
Canada	14	40	25	47	32	50
Venezuela	3/	4/	4/	4/	1	17
Br. W. Indies	4/	10	4	4	12	21
Philippines	4/	1	326	114	0	127
China	3/	4/	105	27	215	69
Indonesia	3/	35	25	4/	64	112
Korea	3/	4/	0	0	49	0
Other countries	14	36	15	32	30	57
Total	235	509	773	963	869	1,135

1/ Includes milled rice, brown, broken, screenings and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ If any, included in "other countries". 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Bureau of the Census.

Approximately 60 percent of exports went to Western Hemisphere countries, with slightly over one-half to Cuba. Canada, Jamaica, Venezuela, and Bolivia also were important destinations of United States rice. The Asiatic countries, the Philippines, Indonesia, and China, took over one-fourth of the total. Approximately 12 million pounds went to Saudi Arabia, and 6 million to Japan.

Exports to Europe were the largest on record. Consignments to European countries were: Belgium and Luxembourg, 29; Greece, 25; Austria, 16; Switzerland, 11; Germany, 7; and others, 2.

December exports were markedly above average and totaled 201 million pounds compared with 109 million pounds in November. December exports went to the following countries (million pounds); Cuba, 99; Indonesia, 86; Jamaica, 3; Japan, 3; Bolivia, 3; French West Indies, 2; Canada, 1; and Switzerland, 1.

PAKISTAN'S RICE ACREAGE INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The second estimate of Pakistan's 1949-50 rice acreage is 20,684,000 acres, an increase of 47,000 acres over the December forecast, according to the Directorate of Statistics. Compared with the previous year's forecast of 20,710,000 acres, there appears to be a nominal decrease of 0.1 percent in 1949-50.

The area under autumn rice in East Bengal, the main producing area, is stated as having decreased by 5 percent, whereas other provinces and states have registered increases in the acreages. The condition of the crop was reported to be normal.

BURMA'S RICE CROP SMALLER

Burma's 1949-50 rice production is placed at 200,087,000 bushels from 7,716,000 acres likely to mature, according to the Burman Government's third forecast. These estimates are 16 and 10 percent, respectively, less than in the year before, when production was estimated at 237,824,000 bushels and acreage at 8,558,000 acres. Production this year is only 57 percent of the prewar average of 350,000,000 bushels. Allowing for internal utilization and losses due to civil disturbance, approximately 930,000 short tons of milled rice are estimated to be available from the 1949-50 crop for export in 1950.

FATS AND OILS

BRAZIL ANTICIPATES SMALLER OILSEED OUTPUT

Brazil's oilseed production in 1950 is expected to be slightly less than last year's, according to the American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro.

The main factor which appears to have affected the prospective edible oil situation in 1950 was the unusually severe and prolonged seasonal drought in Central Brazil in 1949. The dry period, which was not completely broken until November, interferred with planting of the "wet season" peanut crop, which is harvested at the end of the calendar year. Many growers abandoned their intensions to grow peanuts and planted cotton instead. Consequently, total peanut production may not exceed 110,000 short tons compared with the official estimate of 153,800 tons in 1949.

The expected decrease in peanut production probably will be largely counter-balanced by an increase in commercial cottonseed output. Total outturn for the year ending June 30, 1950, is tentatively estimated at about 827,000 tons against 727,500 in 1949. A crop of this magnitude would be the largest since 1944.

No substantial changes are expected in production of the minor edible oilseeds. Soybean output, which has increased several fold in Rio Grande do Sul in recent years, is unofficially estimated to have reached 33,000 tons (1,100,000 bushels) in 1949. Production probably will be maintained at this level in 1950. Sesame, of which a few thousand tons are produced annually, is believed to have been adversely affected by the 1949 drought in Sao Paulo.

Of the inedible oilseeds, the greatest production changes are expected in oiticica and tucum. Although it is still too early to estimate the oiticica crop accurately, and there is some fear that production has been reduced by recent heavy rains, trade circles are anticipating a crop of around 50,000 tons, which is equivalent to about 15,000 tons of oil. This would be 5 times the 1949 production and three fourths the record crop of 1948. Collection of tucum nuts, on the other hand, is expected to decline by nearly 50 percent from the record quantity of 15,400 tons collected in 1949.

BRAZIL: Production of specified oilseeds,
1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Average 1935-39	1948 1/	1949 1/	1950 1/ forecast
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Cottonseed 2/...	987,440	595,240	3/ 727,500	4/ 826,700
Castor beans....	148,000	3/5/ 254,800	3/5/ 219,100	208,000
Babassu kernels.	46,250	77,160	66,140	66,000
Peanuts.........	6/ 14,760	3/5/ 153,200	3/5/ 153,800	110,000
Oiticica seed...	7/ 23,900	3/ 65,000	3/ 9,900	50,000
Flaxseed........	-	22,050	22,050	-
Soybeans 8/.....	--	19,840	3/ 33,000	33,000
Tucum nuts......	9/ 3,108	7,170	3/ 15,400	8,800
Tung nuts.......	430	3/5/ 14,950	3/5/ 13,200	13,200

1/ Unofficial estimates except as noted. 2/ Commercial production. 3/ Revised. 4/ Year ending June 30, 1950. 5/ Official. 6/ 1939. 7/ 1937-39. 8/ Rio Grande do Sul only. 9/ Exports.

American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro.

Collection of babassu kernels is believed to have fallen off considerably in 1949 from the near-record reached in 1948. Total production probably did not amount to more than 66,000 tons. As the main collecting season is in the latter half of the year, 1950 production is uncertain but likely will not exceed that of 1949. Present prices which are substantially below those of a year ago are not such as to stimulate a high level of production.

Castor bean production in 1949 is officially estimated at 219,100 tons. The crop, although 35,000 tons smaller than the record production of 1948, was the second largest on record. Recent prices for castor beans have not been favorable, and consequently a further small decrease in production in 1950 is considered probable.

Official statistics of vegetable oil production in 1949 are not available. In 1948 a record quantity of 185,200 tons was produced. Of this quantity approximately 67,000 tons consisted of cottonseed oil and about 42,000 tons of peanut oil. Total production of edible oils was about 113,500 tons. The major industrial oils were oiticica (19,800 tons), babassu (21,400) and castor (15,000).

It is believed that production of all oils in 1949 was slightly less than in 1948. Production of edible oils may have exceeded that of 1948 by about 5 percent as a result of an increased cottonseed crop. Production of oiticica oil decreased from 19,800 tons in 1948 to less than 3,300 last year. There is evidence that crushing of castor beans is on the increase in Brazil as a result of the decrease in the United States import duty on castor oil under the Geneva Agreement and the subsequent adjustment in maritime freight rates. Total production of castor oil is believed to have exceeded 16,500 tons in 1949.

BRAZILIAN FIRMS CARRY ON WHALING

Brazil has two land stations that have been engaged in whaling operations for more than 30 years, according to the American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro. The larger, the Companhia de Pesca Norte do Brasil (Northern Brazil Fishing Company), is at Cabedelo, Estado da Paraiba do Norte. The other, Sociedade Industrial de Pesca, Ltda. (Industrial Fishing Society), a smaller concern, is at Imbituba, Estado de Santa Catarina.

The firm in Paraiba is well equipped with modern processing machinery, including boilers and autoclaves. Although presently operating with only one sea-going vessel, a new one is expected to be delivered at an early date. The concern, which employs several Norwegian specialists, catches an average of about 40 whales annually although in 1949 the catch numbered only 32. The whales vary in length from 42 to 60 feet.

The smaller firm, in Imbituba, has no modern processing machinery and nearly all of the work is done manually. This station's catch in 1949 was reported to have been only 4 whales, measuring 40 to 52 feet in length.

U. S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States imports of specified vegetable oils and oilseeds, 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified oils and oilseeds, 1949 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 2/	1949 2/
Babassu kernels.	1,000 lbs	3/	22,233	61,921	46,691
Babassu oil	" "	4/ 346	1,747	3,082	3,565
Castor beans....	" "	132,924	276,807	302,511	289,936
Castor oil......	" "	226	6,595	2,441	10,618
Flaxseed........	" bu.	18,470	282	1,066	148
Linseed oil.....	" lbs	713	117,326	3,959	1,317
Copra...........	Short tons	230,000	677,660	448,862	428,230
Coconut oil.....	1,000 lbs.	342,717	23,559	109,096	115,051
Oiticia oil.....	" "	7,673	8,471	17,558	8,940
Olive oil:					
Edible........	" "	62,811	11,250	36,101	20,050
Inedible......	" "	35,448	248	9,775	3,124
Palm oil........	" "	321,482	63,212	63,328	82,340
Sesame seed.....	" "	58,425	9,479	22,606	10,818
Tea seed oil....	" "	13,159	6,377	3,601	141
Tucum kernels...	" "	4/ 9,810	16,887	11,619	30,183
Tung oil........	" "	123,190	121,564	133,282	64,968

1/ Imports for consumption. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Average of less than 5 years.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, 1949 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
Soybeans........	1,000 bu.	2/ 4,793	2,505	6,497	23,361
Soybean oil					
Refined.......	1,000 lbs.	3/ (6,467	38,883	41,266	4/ 211,519
Crude.........	" "	(	68,395	41,769	147,062
Coconut oil					
Refined.......	" "	3,789	5,491	9,273	4,550
Crude.........	" "	10,442	52,427	9,820	13,888
Cottonseed.......	" "	3/	13,771	10,151	15,015
Cottonseed oil					
Refined.......	" "	4,793	10,977	22,672	5/ 54,337
Crude.........	" "	1,515	901	10,094	62,272
Flaxseed........	1,000 bu.	3/	16	1,650	3,107
Linseed oil.....	1,000 lbs.	1,280	9,855	29,636	3,829
Peanuts					
Shelled.......	" "	3/ (452	212,253	458,655	349,297
Unshelled.....	" "	(	18,681	10,594	8,543
Peanut oil:					
Refined.......	" "	3/ 6/(325	1,579	685	24,636
Crude.........	" "	(	497	0	42,344
Cooking fats....	" "	2,111	3,594	3,522	7/ 22,741
Lard............	" "	165,636	380,735	271,835	613,698
Oleomargarine...	" "	180	19,954	3,408	2,009
Tallow					
Edible........	" "	3/ (1,651	601	1,377	24,983
Inedible......	" "	3/ (	54,553	67,995	362,125

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Average of less than 5 years. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ As a result of revisions in April, May, and July 1949, the January-November figure for soybean oil, refined, should now read 196,235. 5/ A revision in May 1949 changes the January-November figure for cottonseed oil, refined, to 51,349. 6/ 1939 only. 7/ A revision in July 1949 changes the January-November figure for cooking fats to 21,791.

Compiled from official sources.

ARGENTINA REPORTED OFFERING FLAXSEED FOR EXPORT JULY 1

According to reliable trade sources, the Argentine Trade Promotion Institute (Government Purchasing Agency) is showing some interest in selling limited quantities of flaxseed for shipment after July 1, 1950. The price reported for such forward contracts is 53 pesos per 100 kilograms ($4.00 per bushel) f.o.b., Buenos Aires. The British Ministry of Food has contracted for 50,000 metric tons of linseed oil. At the applicable rate of exchange, the price is approximately 13.7 cents per pound f.o.b., Buenos Aires.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

NICARAGUA'S 1949 COFFEE EXPORTS DROP

Nicaragua's exports of green coffee fell to about 113 thousand bags in 1949, less than half as much as the 1948 exports of 241 thousand bags, according to the American Embassy in Managua. This compares with exports of 167 thousand bags in 1947 and a prewar (1935-39) annual average of 271 thousand bags.

NICARAGUA: Exports of green coffee, 1949 with comparisons

Destination	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
United States	115,282	164,811	224,756	104,773
Other Western Hemisphere	648	-	3,764	1,438
Belgium	1,083	1,028	5,357	5,099
Italy	3,168	115	2,050	765
Other Europe	150,564	1,503	5,543	578
All Other	115	-	-	-
Total	270,860	167,457	241,470	112,653

1/ Preliminary.

Official Statistics and U. S. Foreign Service reports.

About 93 percent of Nicaragua's 1949 coffee exports were shipped to the United States, compared with the same percentage of total coffee exports in 1948 and 43 percent of the prewar average. Europe received only 6 percent of Nicaragua's total exports of coffee in 1949 and only 5 percent of 1948 coffee exports, compared with 57 percent of Nicaragua's average coffee exports in the prewar period. Belgium was the leading European destination for Nicaragua's coffee shipments in 1949, taking about 5,100 bags.

Export prices for Nicaraguan coffee fluctuated considerably during the year. For the first quarter of 1949, the price averaged about 27.6 cents a pound, f.o.b. Corinto. In the second quarter, prices declined to an average of 23.7 cents per pound, but rose again to an average of 27.6 cents for the third quarter. From this point, prices rose gradually to about 31.6 cents in mid-October, and then increased sharply to a high of about 49.3 cents during the third week in November. At the close of the year, prices had settled to 48.3 cents per pound.

COLOMBIA'S 1949 COFFEE EXPORTS SLIGHTLY LOWER

Colombia exported about 3 percent less coffee in 1949 than in the previous year, according to the American Embassy in Bogota. Coffee exports declined from 5,588 thousand bags in 1948 to 5,410 thousand bags in 1949. The decrease is attributed to inadequate transportation facilities during the months of November and December 1949. Colombia's coffee exports averaged 3,980 thousand bags annually in the prewar (1935-39) period.

The percentage of Colombia's coffee exports to the United States to Colombia's total coffee exports fell off from 93 percent in 1948 to 90 percent in 1949. Europe's share of Colombia's coffee shipments increased from 3 percent in 1948 to 6 percent in 1949. Next to the United States, Canada was the leading destination for Colombia's coffee exports in 1949, taking about 200,000 bags. Most of Colombia's coffee shipments to Europe went to Finland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland.

COLOMBIA: Exports of green coffee, 1949 with comparisons

Destination	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
United States	3,111	4,983	5,215	4,888
Canada	103	174	206	199
Other Western Hemisphere	6	12	6	15
Finland	-	23	94	82
Belgium	5	34	35	52
Germany	589	-	-	49
Sweden	25	65	6	47
Switzerland	-	8	14	44
Other Europe	94	33	11	33
All other	47	7	1	1
Total	3,980	5,339	5,588	5,410

1/ Preliminary.

Official Statistics and U. S. Foreign Service Reports.

Despite the decrease in the quantity exported, Colombia received more money for its 1949 coffee shipments than it obtained from coffee exports in 1948. This resulted from the sharp increases in coffee prices which occurred in October 1949. Colombia's coffee exports were valued at 242 million dollars for 1949 as compared with 225 million dollars for 1948.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

BRED SOW NUMBERS IN DENMARK SHOW TEMPORARY DECLINE

The number of bred sows in Denmark, according to the December 30, 1949 census, declined 18 percent from those of the November 20 census. However, the total number of hogs, particularly pigs and slaughter hogs, showed a slight increase during the period. The reduction in the number of bred sows is not expected to continue and is believed to be only temporary.

DENMARK: Hog numbers (entire country including parishes and boroughs) December 30, 1949, with comparisons

Date	Sows		Suckling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total 1/
	Bred	Total			
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
October 9, 1948	143	221	447	1,129	1,805
November 20, 1948	165	234	362	1,298	1,903
December 30, 1948	176	249	410	1,276	1,944
October 9, 1949	266	381	685	1,951	3,029
November 20, 1949	250	371	725	1,992	3,101
December 30, 1949	205	344	844	1,920	3,120

1/ Includes boars.

Compiled from official sources.

Decreasing prices for young pigs and increasing grain prices, together with warnings not to increase numbers, influenced the temporary cut-back. The prices of grain following devaluation of the Danish Krone in September rose as follows: rye, 30 percent; barley, 35 percent; oats 36 and American corn, 31 percent. The latest price quotations of grains, however, show a slight increase in early 1950, but it is impossible at this time to determine the trend for the year.

NETHERLANDS CATTLE NUMBERS RISE

Cattle numbers in the Netherlands as of December 1949 were 10 percent larger than a year earlier according to the Government's Central Bureau of Statistics. Total cattle and milk cow numbers now exceed those of prewar.

Heifers two years old and older were the only class to reflect a decrease during the year. The number in this category declined 2.6 percent which is partly attributable to the severe drought of 1947. Fat cattle and cattle for fattening showed the largest increase in numbers, with calves under 1 year making the second largest increase.

NETHERLANDS: Number of cattle by classes December, 1949, with comparisons

Classification	1940	1946	1947	1948	1949	1949 / 1948
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Cattle:						
Calves under 1 year						
Heifers..........	430	453	417	426	495	116
Male.............	49	20	19	25	27	109
Calves, 1-2 years						
Bred.............	251	213	149	178	197	110
Not bred..........	148	178	146	169	178	105
Young cattle over 2 years..........						
Bred.............	48	45	49	70	67	96
Not bred..........	10	10	19	28	28	101
Milk cows						
Calved once.......	-	-	-	311	342	110
Calved twice......	-	-	-	286	291	107
Calved three times	-	-	-	288	312	108
Older cows........	-	-	-	477	539	113
Total milk cows	1,440	1,277	1,269	1,362	1,484	109
Steers 1 year and older..........	22	18	15	19	21	109
Fat cattle and cattle for fattening..	45	8	7	12	20	171
Total cattle....	2,443	2,222	2,090	2,289	2,517	110

Compiled from official sources.